CLEARANCE OF IRRIGATION PROJECTS IN MADHYA PRADESH

*39. SHRI S. B. SINGH : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have cleared Sutia medium and Amdania Diversion projects in the district of Rajnandgaon in Madhya Pradesh from forest angle;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by which the projects are likely to be cleared ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) to (c) For non-furnishing of essential information by the State Government of Madhya Pradesh, the Sutiapat Reservoir projects stands rejected. Amdania Project has been approved, under the Forests Conservation Act 1980 subject to transfer and mutation of non-forest land and depositing fund in favour of State Forest Department for raising compensatory afforestation.

FORESTS COVER IN KERALA

*40. SHRI V. S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the area covered by natural forests in Kerala;

(b) whether the Union Government are aware of large scale deforestation in the State; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken to check mass destruction of forests in Kerala ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) The total extent of natural forests in Kerala is 7870 Sq. Kms.

(b) No large scale destruction of forests has been reported by the State Government. Illicit fellings as and when detected have been booked.

(c) The Government of Kerala have taken following steps to control illicit fellings :—

(i) Reorganisation of beats and sections into 24 hours fully staffed and equipped forest stations.

(ii) Consolidation and demarcation of boundaries started in 1980. So far 6250 Kms. consolidated. Works in about 250 kms. in progress.

(iii) Patrolling in vulnerable area intensified.

NEWS ITEM "U.S. CONGRESS MAN REPORTS INDIA ON THE BRINK OF AN AIDS CATASTROPHE"

56. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to refer to the news item captioned "US Congressman reports India on the brink of an AIDS catastrophe" appearing in the Indian Express, New Delhi dated 10 June, 1991 and State :

(a) the facts of the case as ascertained by the Government; and

(b) the steps being taken to control the epidemic ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D. K. THARA DEVI) : (a) and (b) A US Congressman who visited India in April, 1991 has estimated that one million persons may be infected. He has based his estimation on the prevelance of infection among prostitutes and spread of infection to their clients in Bombay. Also reckoning the spread of HIV infection through contaminated blood and through sharing of needles by intravenous drug users, the Congressman has estimated that one million may be infected.

Government of India with the help of WHO assistance has formulated an action plan for undertaking prevention and control measures in the most affected States. Viz : Maharashtra, Tamilnadu, West Benal, Delhi and Manipur. The control measures relate to :—

— Information, education and communication.

— Sexaully Transmittde diseases.

— Blood Safety.

— Clinical Management.

— Programme Management.

The World Health Organization has agreed to provide assistance for financing

the Action Plans in Maharashtra, Tamilnadu, West Bengal, Manipur and Union Territory of Delhi. The amounts earmarked for each State are as under :

State	*Amounts US $ (in lakhs)*
1. Maharashtra	4.45
2. Manipur	0.63
3. Tamilnadu	2.87
4. West Bengal	3.67
5. Delhi	1.42

MIGRANT LABOUR

58. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the names of States/Union Territories with large quantum of migrant labour from other States/Union Territories;

(b) the estimated quantum of such labour on 1 April, 1991 statewise as well as by State of origin;

(c) the names of States where the Bihar Government have established offices to look after the welfare of Bihari labour;

(d) the names of States, if any, which have not allowed Bihar to open such offices; and

(e) the view of the Central Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY) : (a) and (b) The available reports from some of the State Governments/Union Territories indicating the number of working migrant Labour as on January, 1991 is given in the attached statement.

(c) to (e) Under Section 20(3) of the Inter-State Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1979, State Governments can appoint Inspectors for exercising powers of inspection as specified in Section 20(2) in other States where migrant workmen are employed. However, this power can be exercised only with the concurrence of the recipient State or the Central Government as the case may be. The Act does not provide for opening of offices of welfare by one State Government in the jurisdiction of the other States.

The prime responsibility for implementation of the Act rests with the respective State Governments. The provisions of Section 20(3), however, have not been utilised so far because of the unwillingness of the recipient State Governments to give any concurrence to the appointment of Inspectors by originating States.

As per the direction dated 16th July, 1990 of the Supreme Court in Writ Petitions Nos. 511 and 975 of 1988 every State and Union Territory in India is obliged to permit officers of originating State of migrant labour to hold proper enquiries within the limits of the recipient States for enforcement of the Statue and the recipient States have been debarred from placing any embargo or hindrance in such processes. This order of the Supreme Court has been communicated to all the State Governments and Union Territories.

As per report from the Government of Bihar it has not appointed any Inspectors under Section 20(3) in recipient States.

NAMES OF STATES/UNION TERRITORIES WITH LARGE QUANTUM OF MIGRANT LABOUR FROM OTHER STATES/UNION TERRITORIES.

States/Union Territories	No. of working Migrant Labour
1. Kerala	2500
2. Haryana	1650
3. Manipur	2000
4. Panaji (Goa)	1159
5. West Bengal	2710 (in 1989)
6. Uttar Pradesh	1110
7. Maharashtra	2037
8. Karnataka	1253
9. Assam	9331